



British JCI Senate  
Chairman's Report to the Annual General Meeting  
On Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2007  
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▪ OPENING COMMENTS

- We are well through my year as the 2007 British Senate Chairman and the run in is not quite as hectic as the previous few months.
- Taking on this role has taken Zoë and me to places we have not been before.
- I have found the experience to be invigorating through working with people who deliver without fuss and the warmth of the fellowship both at home and abroad.
- My theme is "More with Less" meaning we can achieve more with less administration; we need to communicate more by talking rather than endless emails and perhaps somewhat flippantly more beer with less champagne because the latter gives me indigestion!

▪ THE PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

- This year's official programme has 18 events which is slightly more than normal. This is due to trying out a couple of one day events to allow those senators who have restraints in terms of time, financial and family to attend our events.
- This year there has been two extra special 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary events. The first one being the Crayfish Party in Halmstad in August where we had 29 in the British Senate Party with a very special cabaret. The second is the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of JCI Ireland in October. Both of these occasions have been excellent opportunities for us British to support our international friends.
- So far we have enjoyed events thus
  - ❖ The Northern Ireland weekend where we had over 55 attendees.
  - ❖ The Lincolnshire weekend in Boston enjoying the beautiful countryside and sample Lincolnshire Poacher cheese.
  - ❖ The Reading weekend - who will forget the wonderful lunch at the prestigious Leander Club
  - ❖ JCI UK National Conference in Sheffield where we enjoyed Brian and Tracy Viner speaking as a rather unique Father and Daughter combination at the senate breakfast.
  - ❖ EC2007 Pre-tour in Limburg
  - ❖ EC2007 in Maastricht where we could relax in this historic town.
  - ❖ Northumberland Walking weekend with that bracing coastal walk and dinner at the Mansion House
  - ❖ A Day Out at York Races with the hospitality at Middlethorpe Hall
  - ❖ Shropshire Weekend - Back to school at Wrekin College with our very own old boy and School Days fancy dress on the Friday evening.
  - ❖ 50<sup>th</sup> Crayfish Party as noted above - thanks to everyone for making the effort and being such a great team.
- The events yet to come are
  - ❖ The Roman Toga Weekend at the end of this month including the AGM
  - ❖ The House of Commons Lunch and Tour - a sell out with 54 attendees on 9<sup>th</sup> October
  - ❖ The 50<sup>th</sup> Irish Convention the following weekend in Cobh, Co Cork.
  - ❖ The Fly South Weekend in Hampshire at the end of October
  - ❖ The WC 2007 Pre-Tour in Turkey in November, followed by the
  - ❖ World Congress in Antalya Turkey
  - ❖ The JCI UK National Awards weekend in Doncaster at the end of November / start of December.
  - ❖ The Drumming Out in Manchester over the second weekend of January 2008 with the theme of "The Magic of Manchester".



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▪ INTERNATIONALISM

- During the year I will have represented the British Senate in 10 countries other than England including the following events not previously mentioned;
- The Swedish Chain Changing Dinner in Jonkoping in January.
- The ASE Spring meeting in Copenhagen in April where I attended their board meeting.
- The EC2007 in Maastricht where I attended the ASE AGM and I was honoured to propose Clare Ashton as their incoming Secretary.
- In Halmstad again where I attended the ASE board meeting
- One of this year's highlights being my first trip to the United States 35<sup>th</sup> Senate Convention in Annapolis in the State of Maryland. I was really honoured and proud to represent the British Senate at this function and thank you to the US Senate for making us (Clare Ashton, Chris Read, Zoë and I) all feel so welcome and a part of them. International fellowship at its very best!

▪ JCI UK

- A major focus this year is the British Senate support programme consisting of mentoring and training initiatives and the Future Forum in conjunction with JCI UK.
- As a consequence we now have a register of senators to serve as mentors and or trainers.
- Many senators are already involved in mentoring, attending and supporting the various local chambers and launches and re-launches.
- The British Senate has presented 5 senate bursaries so far out of a target of 8 to new JCI UK members to sponsor them at International events.
- We were delighted to host Sarah Oxby (Boston) and Ryan Stevens (Doncaster) in the senate bar in Maastricht. We look forward to a similar hosting in Antalya
- We look forward to presenting the British Senate sponsored Best New Member Award at the JCI UK Awards weekend in Doncaster.

▪ MEMBERSHIP

- I am sad to report the loss of three fellow British senators this year namely Ray Allen, Alistair (Sandy) Dewhirst and of course our much loved Past Chairman, Pat McManus. I was proud to remember these late senators at the US Senate Memorial Service in June.
- So far, we have seen the award of three new Senatorships, namely Alison Mosley, Graeme Forrester (via Glasgow JC) and more recently Caroline Heward. Congratulations and welcome to them.
- Therefore we have maintained the status quo numbers wise at around 1100 British senators.
- Looking forward we are keen to get more of our senators actively involved and attending our events.

▪ OTHER INITIATIVES

- The Database – we have taken the bold step to change our database this year and the implementation programme is taking a little longer than we expected but feel sure the longer term benefits will be well worth it.
- The Website – the excellent work has continued in developing the British Senate website and even I, perhaps a sceptic, am really impressed with not just the excellent content but how easy it is to use. Give it a try at [www.britishsenate.org.uk](http://www.britishsenate.org.uk).



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- The Newsletter – we are currently undertaking a review of the best way forward in the longer term with the newsletter which we also prepare on behalf of the ASE who is currently reviewing their future communication requirements.
- The BJC Foundation – for various reasons there has been very little apparent activity from the Foundation although Arnold Rust is in place as Clerk to the Trustees. The Foundation is an important plank in supporting the development of JCI UK therefore needs to be promoted more.
- The Most Outstanding Senator in Europe – Congratulations to Julia Lea on her much deserved success in Maastricht.

#### ▪ THE COUNCIL

- In June of this year Peter Browning took over the role of Joint Newsletter Content Editor from Ian Nelson who has given over ten years service. I specifically thank Ian for his superb and sustained contribution.
- Kate Canty has just been co-opted to the Council as Database Manager given the importance of communications to our continued success and support programmes.
- Our Deputy Chairman, Barry Miller, is ready to present his team for election at the AGM and the programme for 2008 is well advanced. We can look forward to an excellent year.

#### ▪ THANK YOU

- As I said at the outset this has been a fulfilling and invigorating year and I thank my fellow Council Members for their hard work and support.
- The international fellowship is very special to Zoë and I and I thank those "Beautiful Foreigners" who have made our adventures to date extra special and from whom I have learned a lot.
- We have been sponsored by Robinsons Brewery this year and the Double Hop has proved to be a winner. Thank you Veronica Robinson and Robinsons Brewery for your excellent support.
- The British Senate Council's sole purpose is to serve the British Senators and it is you, the British Senators, who I must thank for making this year so enjoyable.

#### ▪ IN CONCLUSION

- I have managed to get through this far as your Chairman whilst running my own business on a full time basis and still representing the British Senate in the appropriate manner at the many events both at home and abroad.
- I feel well pleased with that achievement but perhaps you are in a better position to judge than me!

Phil Spring  
Senator 40459  
3<sup>rd</sup> September 2007